

HOUSE RESOLUTION 258

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the owners of John P. Franklin Funeral Home for professional and compassionate service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those outstanding family-owned businesses within this State whose owners have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions and as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such business is John P. Franklin Funeral Home in Chattanooga, which provides honorable and distinguished service to the citizens of Tennessee in a truly caring and compassionate manner; and

WHEREAS, John P. Franklin, along with his children, City Councilman John P. "Duke" Franklin, Jr., and Cheryl Franklin Key, recently opened their business at 1101 Dodds Avenue; and

WHEREAS, descendants of Chattanooga's first black funeral home operator, the Franklins are proudly continuing their family's legacy of providing the finest services to the recently departed and bringing comfort and consolation to those who are grieving; and

WHEREAS, John Franklin's father, the venerable George W. "G.W." Franklin, founded Franklin Funeral Home in 1894, becoming the first African-American funeral operator in Chattanooga; John P. Franklin, his brother Ben, and his sister Mabel Franklin Taylor succeeded G.W. Franklin and operated the business until 1952; and

WHEREAS, a former city commissioner, John Franklin entered into a partnership and opened Franklin-Strickland Funeral Home, which he left to join his children in forming the John P. Franklin Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, in addition to five parlors, a chapel, and a modern vehicle fleet, the funeral home retains a vintage 1959 Cadillac Coupe de Fleur hearse that was used by the family decades ago; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin family works assiduously to provide affordable funeral services to area residents and help them through their time of grief; and

WHEREAS, this public-spirited family has answered the highest calling to help others and will no doubt be instrumental in the Ridgedale area's revitalization; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge the owners of John P. Franklin Funeral Home for continuing the fine legacy of their ancestors in providing exemplary service to their community, for their ongoing commitment to excellence, and for their dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the owners of John P. Franklin Funeral Home for their professional and compassionate service to the residents of Chattanooga, even as we offer our best wishes for every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.